



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A steam cooker comprising:
 - (a) a cooking chamber in which foods are put;
 - (b) a steam generator;
 - (c) a sub-cavity provided ~~on~~ above and in a center of a ceiling of the cooking chamber;
 - (d) steam heating means disposed in the sub-cavity for heating steam introduced to the sub-cavity so that the steam becomes superheated steam;
 - (e) a top blowhole which is ~~provided on~~ formed in the ceiling of the cooking chamber, the top blowhole directed to the foods put in the cooking chamber; and
 - (f) a blower for blowing superheated steam downward from the top blowhole with force so that the superheated steam reaches a bottom of the cooking chamber.
2. (Previously Presented) The steam cooker according to claim 1, wherein the top blowhole is disposed at a center portion of the ceiling.
3. (Currently Amended) The steam cooker according to claim 2, wherein the top blowhole is directed ~~right~~ downward.

4. (Currently Amended) The steam cooker according to claim 3, wherein
the top blowhole consists of plurality of perforations, and the perforations are disposed so
as to spread over foods so that the foods are substantially wrapped by superheated steam blown
from the top blowhole.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The A steam cooker according to claim 4~~ comprising:
(a) a cooking chamber in which foods are put;
(b) a steam generator;
(c) a sub-cavity provided above and in a center of a ceiling of the cooking chamber;
(d) steam heating means disposed in the sub-cavity for heating steam introduced to the
sub-cavity so that the steam becomes superheated steam;
(e) a top blowhole which is formed in the ceiling of the cooking chamber, the top
blowhole directed to the foods put in the cooking chamber; and
(f) a blower for blowing superheated steam downward from the top blowhole with force
so that the superheated steam reaches a bottom of the cooking chamber, wherein
the top blowhole is disposed at a center portion of the ceiling,
the top blowhole is directed downward,
the top blowhole consists of plurality of perforations, and the perforations are disposed so
as to spread over foods so that the foods are substantially wrapped by superheated steam blown
from the top blowhole, and

the perforations of the top blowhole are disposed comparatively densely in the center portion and comparatively sparsely in the peripheral portion.

6. (Previously Presented) The steam cooker according to claim 1, wherein the top blowhole is formed in a partition panel between the sub-cavity and the cooking chamber.

7. (Currently Amended) The steam cooker according to claim 6, wherein both sides of the partition panel ~~wear~~ are a dark color.

8. (Previously Presented) The steam cooker according to claim 1, further comprising: a blower for forcibly feeding steam generated by the steam generator to the top blowhole.

9. (Previously Presented) The steam cooker according to claim 8, wherein the blower and the steam generator are disposed within an external circulation path communicating a suction port provided in the cooking chamber with the top blowhole.

10. (Previously Presented) The steam cooker according to claim 9, wherein the suction port is disposed at a lower part of the cooking chamber.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A steam cooker ~~according to claim 9~~ comprising:
(a) a cooking chamber in which foods are put;

- (b) a steam generator;
- (c) a sub-cavity provided above and in a center of a ceiling of the cooking chamber;
- (d) steam heating means disposed in the sub-cavity for heating steam introduced to the sub-cavity so that the steam becomes superheated steam;
- (e) a top blowhole which is formed in the ceiling of the cooking chamber, the top blowhole directed to the foods put in the cooking chamber;
- (f) a blower for blowing superheated steam downward from the top blowhole with force so that the superheated steam reaches a bottom of the cooking chamber; and
- (g) a blower for forcibly feeding steam generated by the steam generator to the top blowhole, wherein
 - the blower and the steam generator are disposed within an external circulation path communicating a suction port provided in the cooking chamber with the top blowhole, and
 - the suction port is disposed at an upper part of the cooking chamber.

Claims 12 – 15 (Canceled)